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Profiles of Panelists Participating in Feb. 14 Education Debate

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CONTACT: BILL RITTER

PUBLIC RELATIONS

PROFILES OF PANELISTS PARTICIPATING IN FEB. 14 EDUCATION DEBATE

JOHN COONS: Coons, author of the proposed Voucher System, is a Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, a position he has held since 1968. He received his B.A. from the University of Minnesota, and his J.D. from Northwestern University.

Coons is a member of the National Advisory Panel on Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education, has been a Director of the Childhood and Government Project at U.C. Berkeley, and has taught at Northwestern University and the University of Freiburg in West Germany. From 1953 to 1955, he was a Trial Attorney with the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals in the Pentagon.

He has consulted with a host of government and private groups, including the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the U.S. Office of Education, the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense Fund, the California Teachers Association, the Ford Foundation, the Office of Economic Opportunity, the National Institute for Education in Law and Poverty, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He has written dozens of books and articles on education.

THOMAS SOWELL: Sowell, advocating the Tax Credit system, is a Professor of Economics at U.C.L.A. He has been there since 1978, although he has taught there during other times in his career (1974-76 and 1965-69). He has also taught at Amherst College, Stanford University, Howard University, Cornell University, Brandeis University and Rutgers University.

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THOMAS SOWELL, continued: He was a Labor Economist with the U.S. Department of Labor from 1961 to 1962, and is the author of six books on blacks, education and economics.

Sowell has received numerous honors, including Adjunct Scholar to the American Enterprise Institute, and an Edward Hillman Fellow at the University of Chicago.

Sowell has a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, an A.M. in Economics from Columbia University, and an A.B. in Economics from Harvard College.

THOMAS SHANNON: Shannon, proposing the continued public funding of education, is the Executive Director of the National School Boards Association--located in Washington, D.C. He has held that position since 1977. The Association is a non-profit federation of the 50 state school boards associations, representing the nation's 16,000 school districts and their 95,000 school board members.

Shannon received his B.S. from the University of Wisconsin, and his J.D. from the University of Minnesota.

Shannon was the Deputy Superintendent and General Counsel of the San Diego City Schools from 1973 to 1977, and served for 11 years prior to that as Schools Attorney for the San Diego City Schools and Community Colleges.

He has been an Adjunct Professor of Law and Education at the University of San Diego, and is a member of the Education Commission of the States, and national chairman of the Public Education Committee, Local Government Section, of the American Bar Association.

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